

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response to nearly all of the Examiner's rejections, the claims have been clarified to avoid the same.

However, with respect to Claim 1 et al., the Examiner states in paragraph 6(b)(i)(2) that it is confusing that the identity certificate is not involved in the assigning operation. In response, applicant asserts the following claim language is intentionally drafted to cover "assigning" whether or not an identity certificate is involved therewith: "assigning an attribute from the plurality of possible user attributes to the user." Applicant asserts that such language is not confusing, contrary to the Examiner's assertion.

Thus, all of the independent claims are deemed allowable. Moreover, the remaining dependent claims are further deemed allowable, in view of their dependence on such independent claims.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. NAI1P252/00.102.01).

Respectfully submitted,
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